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9 November 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director, Intelligence 25X1A5a1

SUBJECT: Proposal to Obtain the Services of

1. This memorandum is for your information and action as recommended in Paragraph 4.

2. Dr. J. B. Wiesner, a Consultant to the President's Scientific Adviser, has requested through members of my staff that the Agency arrange to furnish him with rather detailed information bearing on the feasibility of a small Soviet clandestine ICBM production program under conditions of general disarmament and inspection. Specifically, he is interested in the approximate size and general layout of the physical plant the USSR might select to produce clandestinely ICBMs at a rate of one per month in a single, integrated facility and, alternatively, under a dispersed production program with a clandestine facility engaged in airframe fabrication and final assembly of components from other plants. In our view, such a study should also include (a) consideration of the lead times required to construct (or convert) and tool the facilities for missile production; (b) discussion of the labor force requirements and materials inputs; (c) delivery, transport and storage of completed missiles and systems equipment; and (d) some analysis of the problems a nation would be likely to encounter in planning and conducting this activity clandestinely.

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3. Dr. Wiesner apparently desires this study to enable him to demonstrate that clandestine production of even a small number of ICBMs involves certain difficult problems of organization, coordination and sheer physical activity and cannot be conducted, as he put it, "in somebody's barn." He proposed that [REDACTED] might be particularly well qualified to prepare such a study, in view of his experience in "operating on a shoestring" [REDACTED]. However, Dr. Wiesner does not wish to reveal to [REDACTED] the interest of the White House staff in the project and has therefore requested that CIA make the necessary arrangements, although Dr. Wiesner would like to be present during the initial discussion with [REDACTED]. With Dr. Scoville's concurrence, we have tentatively agreed to explore the possibility of obtaining von Braun's services. Dr. Wiesner would like to have the completed study in two to three months, if possible.

4. We see no objection to Dr. Wiesner's proposal, and believe that it is likely to provide information of considerable value to the Agency. It is therefore recommended that you authorize ^{this Office} ~~me~~ to negotiate with [REDACTED] services for this purpose. I would propose using Dr. Colm ^{lin} Hudson of Army Ordnance as my point of contact, discussing the problem with him as though it were a unilateral CIA project.

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5. A copy of an informal working paper which was prepared in advance for Dr. Wiesner as a basis for discussion of his request is attached for your information. His interest at present is limited to Alternative 1 of the attachment.

OTTO E. GUTHE
Assistant Director
Research and Reports

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